

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for applying a coating to an elongated member, comprising:

a coating unit having a sizing die with an orifice through which said elongated member is conveyed, the diameter said orifice being adjustable, wherein said sizing die includes a resilient helical spring member that defines said orifice.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for applying a coating to an elongated member, comprising:

a coating unit having a sizing die with an orifice through which said elongated member is conveyed, the diameter said orifice being adjustable, wherein said sizing die includes a helical resilient member that defines said orifice.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a tensioning mechanism for adjusting the tension of said resilient member by causing relative rotation between opposite ends of said resilient member to change the diameter of said orifice.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said sizing die includes first and second portions respectively having first and second through-holes in which said

resilient member is disposed, wherein one end of said resilient member is attached to said first portion and an opposite end of said resilient member is attached to said second portion, said first and second portions be rotatable with respect to each other and corresponding to said tensioning mechanism.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said elongated member is an optical fiber.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said elongate member is a conductive member.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for applying a coating to an elongated member, comprising:

a coating unit having a sizing die with an orifice through which said elongated member is conveyed, the diameter being defined by a helical spring and said orifice being adjustable;

a measuring device, disposed downstream of said coating unit, for measuring the diameter of said coating; and

a controller for adjusting the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter of said coating.

8. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising:

a measuring device, disposed downstream of said coating unit, for measuring the diameter of said coating; and

a controller for controlling relative rotation between said first and second portions in response to the measured diameter of said coating.

9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said elongated member is an optical fiber.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said elongated member is an optical fiber.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said first portion is disposed upstream of said second portion and wherein said first through hole has a conical shape.

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (CANCELLED)

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CANCELLED)

17. (CANCELLED)

18. (CANCELLED)

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (CANCELLED)

21. (CANCELLED)

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said elongated member is an optical fiber.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said elongate member is a conductive member.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a mechanism for adjusting the tension of said resilient member by causing relative movement between opposite ends of said resilient member to change the diameter of said orifice.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sizing die includes first and second portions respectively having first and second through-holes in which said resilient member is disposed, wherein one end of said resilient member is attached to said first

portion and an opposite end of said resilient member is attached to said second portion, said first and second portions being movable with respect to each other.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising:

a measuring device, disposed downstream of said coating unit, for measuring the diameter of said coating; and

a controller for controlling relative movement between said first and second portions in response to the measured diameter of said coating.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 2726, wherein said controller automatically adjusts the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a measuring device, disposed downstream of said coating unit, which measures the diameter of said coating; and

a controller to adjust the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter of said coating.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said controller automatically adjusts the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said first portion is disposed upstream of said second portion.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said first through hole has a conical shape.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said controller automatically adjusts the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said controller automatically adjusts the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for applying a coating to an optical fiber, comprising:

a coating unit having a sizing die with an orifice through which said optical fiber is conveyed, the diameter said orifice being adjustable, wherein said sizing die includes a helically shaped resilient member that defines said orifice;

a measuring device, disposed downstream of said coating unit, which measures the diameter of said coating; and

a controller to adjust the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter of said coating.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said controller automatically adjusts the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said ~~resilient member~~
helical spring is conically shaped is a spring.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said resilient member is a spring.

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said ~~resilient member~~
a resilient spring member.